



## **Mid County Park Master Plan Citizen Involvement Process February 6—March 1, 2011**

Thank you to the many citizens and users of Mid County Park who participated in the Master Planning process. The Park, located at 3793 Ironbound Road, encompasses the community-built Kidsburg playground.

Mid County Park is one of the County's most visited parks, hosting 300,000 annually. The park opened in 1985, followed by Kidsburg in 1994. Both are in need of much repair—aging equipment, safety and parking are all critical issues. County zoning ordinances require a revised master plan before any significant changes or improvements can begin. During this planning process, we wanted to hear from you to ensure that we continue to provide facilities and make improvements that you want.

You shared your vision of the park with us through attendance at two community meetings, calls and e-mails received through our hotline and online, or by posting your comments on the Listening Board stationed at the James City/Williamsburg Community Center. You can continue to e-mail us at any time—[parks.rec@james-city.va.us](mailto:parks.rec@james-city.va.us). If you requested a follow-up to your comment, you'll be contacted by staff.

All park comments collected between February 6 and March 1 are included in this report. Your feedback has been compiled and is under review. The information will be presented to the James City County Planning Commission and then to the Board of Supervisors. Once funding is available for park improvements, citizen input will be sought to steer the process.

### **Master Plan Process—Summary Data**

Maintaining Kidsburg through improvements, more open and greenspace for activities, and the creation of an onsite environmental, education garden were the top priorities of those participating in the Master Planning process for Mid County Park.

Rounding out the top ten priorities was the need for more multiuse space/fields for year-round activities, more picnic shelters for large groups, improved access to the park from nearby neighborhoods and shopping centers, basketball courts with adjustable goals, a park office with improved restrooms and more park seating.

Participants attending the community meetings on February 16 and February 22 received an overview of the plan, reviewed maps of the current and proposed changes within the park and then divided for small group discussions on issues important to them. The biggest misconception voiced during the meetings was that Kidsburg would not be replaced, which was never a consideration.

The complete list of all comments compiled follows:



# Mid County Park Master Plan

## Comment Overview (79 participants)

(Community Meetings, Hotline, Online, Listening Board)  
February 6—March 1, 2011

### Priority Additions

#### #Votes

- 44 - improved Kidsburg (new playground made from improved materials and ADA accessible)
- 19 - demonstration garden/Master Gardeners with learning opportunity; add environmental & education element
- 18 - more greenspace
- 17 - area for lawn games and pick up activities; add Pickleball courts; horseshoes; shuffle boards
- 15 - improved accessibility to the park from neighborhoods and shopping center; add road to the left side of park
- 15 - multiuse open space/fields for year round use
- 12 - Kidsburg as it is, only do regular maintenance
- 10 - more picnic shelters for large groups
- 8 - add Splash pad (in baseball field; designated areas for small children; activity stations available for year-round use; don't dumb it down)
- 9 - basketball court with adjustable goals
- 9 - park office w/restrooms
- 7 - more seating; benches
- 7 - new rock climbing wall (or repair and elevate existing wall)
- 6 - more parking in front/rear of park
- 6 - soft running trail
- 6 - improved (and separate for safety) playground for 3-4 years olds
- 6 - restrooms only – no building
- 4 - trees (add shading, but don't block view of entire park; but ensure that park users can still fly kites)
- 4 - more marketing
- 4 - add a public pool
- 4 - more/working water fountains throughout the park
- 3 - community garden for rent (such as weddings, etc.)
- 3 - beautify
- 3 - some more things for teens
- 3 - add a dog park
- 3 - add exercise/fitness stations around the walking trail
- 2 - build a mini Rec Center with fitness/weight equipment
- 2 - better perimeter fencing around park
- 2 - security cameras; leave lights on to prevent crime
- 1 - basketball courts need higher fencing
- 1 - expand walking trails
- 1 - map showing park amenities
- 1 - higher fencing for basketball and baseball courts; could camouflage the fencing with gardening
- 1 - add smaller shelters/shaded areas for board games, etc.
- 1 - skate and skateboarding area
- 1 - equipment check area (balls, Frisbees, etc.)
- 1 - rangers help with themed birthday parties



# **Mid County Park Master Plan**

## **Comment Overview (79 participants)**

(Community Meetings, Hotline, Online, Listening Board)  
February 6—March 1, 2011

### **Priority Removals, Relocations:**

#### **#Votes**

- 16 - relocate sand volleyball courts to active play area
- 9 - remove water park (children will be wet for ride home in vehicle; water conservation issues)
- 8 - removal of two baseball fields and light Jamestown and Warhill High School fields
- 8 - tennis courts, basketball courts and multi use path remain in current location
- 6 - relocate second entrance further left
- 6 - make play area larger – expand Kidsburg
- 4 - eliminate excess tree plantings – leave open space
- 3 - lighting conservation plan – lights off certain time (resident of Meadows)
- 1 - need only one baseball field
- 1 - don't need any baseball fields
- 1 - remove tall slides

### **Concerns/suggestions or concerns for Park:**

- 24 - splash pad low priority if funding issue; cost need to be calculated (maintenance, insurance, staffing, safety, and opportunities for year-round use)
- 10 - cost effective to revamp park – prioritize
- 6 - pickets/name boards for original Kidsburg – what happens to them/use them again
- 6 - ensure the two baseball fields at Jamestown and Warhill high schools are in place before they are removed from MCP; are lighted before they are moved; and are well maintained and responsive to County growth after they are moved.
- 7 - I know splash pads have worked very well in others areas (Texas, NC, CA,etc)
- 1 - ensure safety in kids playground area, sand pits
- 1 - overflow parking for special events and more special events at the Park
- 1 - Tennis court – traffic pattern concern with News Road
- 1 - monitor dogs, teens using profanity, cleaner restrooms
- 1 - resurface tennis courts



# Mid County Park Master Plan Citizen Involvement Master Plan Community Meeting February 16, 2011, 6:30 p.m.—Group 1 James City/Williamsburg Community Center



Facilitator: Veda McMullen

**(1) What do you currently like about Mid County Park (activities/amenities that you enjoy there)?**

- accessibility
- basketball courts
- baseball fields
- location
- paved walking trails
- pickleball
- Monkey bars
- big slides
- unique playground
- playgrounds for big/little kids
- zip lines

**(2) After reviewing the proposed Master Plan, what amenities would you like to see (a) added or (b) removed?**

**a) Proposed additions/Top priorities by group:**

- #1 – an improved Kidsburg (a new “Kidsburg” playground made from improved materials and ADA accessible) (12 votes)
- #2 – more greenspace (expand open and green) (9 votes)
- #3 – basketball court with adjustable goals (7 votes)
- #4 - area for lawn games such as Petanque/Boules (expand pen space for pick up activities) (6 votes)
- #5 – multiuse open space (for year round use) (5 votes)
- #5 – more picnic shelters (for large groups) (5 votes)
- #5 – more seating with benches (5 votes)
- #8 – more parking (front and rear of park) (4 votes)
- #8 – park office w/restrooms (centrally located park office w/improved restrooms) (4 votes)
- #10 – add road to the left side of MCP (3 votes)
- #11 – basketball courts need higher fencing (1 vote)

**Additional group suggestions** for improvements (but did not rank above):

- expand the connection between MCP and Steeplechase apartments
- horseshoes
- smaller shelters/shaded areas for board games, etc.
- shuffle boards
- water fountains throughout the park
- exercise stations around the walking trail
- shade trees, but none so big as they block view of entire park
- trees OK, but ensure that park users can still fly kites; MCP is one of the few public places with enough open space.

**b) Proposed Removals, Relocations/Top priorities by group:**

- Splash pad – cost need to be calculated (maintenance, insurance, staffing, safety and options for year round use)

**(3) Other suggestions or concerns about Mid County Park?**

- overflow parking for special events; more special events at the park
- ensure the two baseball fields at Jamestown & Warhill high schools are in place before they're moved from MCP
- ensure the two baseball fields at Jamestown and Warhill are lighted before they're moved from MCP
- ensure the two baseball fields at Jamestown and Warhill high schools are well maintained and responsive to County growth after they're moved



# Mid County Park Master Plan Citizen Involvement Master Plan Community Meeting February 16, 2011, 6:30 p.m.—Group 2 James City/Williamsburg Community Center



Facilitator: Vicki Sprigg; Recorder: Joan Etchberger

**(1) What do you currently like about Mid County Park (activities/amenities that you enjoy there)?**

- Kidsburg playground (creative/unique, non-traditional, wood product, non-competitive activities)
- heavily used by all ages
- centrally located
- zip lines/rock climbing wall/ship
- separation of toddler and older youth
- fencing used
- lighting throughout park
- visually inviting
- multiuse trail
- volleyball courts
- size
- batting cages
- trees
- shelters
- basketball courts
- keep old Kidsburg as is OR replace with updated materials
- keep green space

**(2) After reviewing the proposed Master Plan, what amenities would you like to see (a) added or (b) removed?**

**a) Proposed additions/Top priorities by group:**

- #1 – environmental element and education (11 votes)
- #2 – a new “Kidsburg” playground made from improved materials and ADA accessible (9 votes)
- #3 – Petanque Courts (7 votes)
- #3 – multipurpose field (7 votes)
- #5 – splash pad to baseball field (6 votes)
- #6 – more marketing (4 votes)
- #7 – beautify (3 votes)
- #8 – some more things for teens (2 votes)
- #9 – additional parking – front and rear (1 vote)
- #9 – increased picnic shelters for large groups (1 vote)
- #9 – expanded open and green space for pick up activities and shelter overflow (1 vote)

**Additional group suggestions for improvements (but did not rank above):**

- climbing wall expanded
- security cameras
- map showing amenities of park

**b) Proposed Removals, Relocations/Top priorities by group:**

- relocate sand volleyball courts to active play area (14 votes)
- cost effective to revamp park – prioritize (10 votes)
- splash pads – low priority if funding issue (9 votes)
- removal of two baseball fields and light Jamestown and Warhill High School fields (8 votes)
- tennis courts, basketball courts and multi use path remain in current location (7 votes)



# Mid County Park Master Plan Citizen Involvement Master Plan Community Meeting

February 22, 2011, 12:30 p.m.—Group 1  
James City/Williamsburg Community Center



**Facilitator: Veda McMullen**

**(1) What do you currently like about Mid County Park (activities/amenities that you enjoy there)?**

- Kidsburg
- walking paths
- swings
- basketball
- fenced toddler area with view of entire park (safety in viewing other children)
- really like the park the way it is

**(2) After reviewing the proposed Master Plan, what amenities would you like to see (a) added or (b) removed?**

**a) Proposed additions/Top priorities by group:**

- #1 – Kidsburg remaining virtually the same (5 votes)
- #1 - Demonstration garden/Master Gardeners offering advice, learning opportunity for local gardeners (5 votes)
- #1 - Improved accessibility to the park from neighborhoods and shopping center (5 votes)
- #1 - Improved (and separate for safety) playground for 3-4 years olds (5 votes)
- #5 – New rock climbing wall (or repair and elevate existing wall) (4 votes)
- #5 – Add a public pool (4 votes)
- #7 – Community garden for rent (such as weddings, etc.) (3 votes)
- #8 - Park office with restrooms (2 votes)
- #8 - Improved Kidsburg/ADA compliant ((2 votes)
- #10- More picnic shelters/large groups (1 vote)

**Additional group suggestions** for improvements (but did not rank above):

- water fountains that work
- adjustable and separate basketball goals for small children (even on grassy area)
- higher fencing for basketball and baseball courts. Could camouflage the fencing with gardening

**b) Proposed Removals, Relocations/Top priorities by group:**

- need only one baseball field
- don't need any baseball fields

**(3) Other suggestions or concerns about Mid County Park?**

- slash pads have worked very well in Austin, Texas
- sandpit area in kids playground, ensure safety of pit drop





**Mid County Park Master Plan  
Citizen Involvement  
Master Plan Community Meeting  
February 22, 2011, 12:30 p.m.—Group 2  
James City/Williamsburg Community Center**



Facilitator: Vicki Sprigg; Recorder: Joan Etchberger

**(1) What do you currently like about Mid County Park (activities/amenities that you enjoy there)?**

- Kidsburg
- multiuse trail
- location – easily accessible/ convenient
- variety of activities – all in one location
- fenced off areas
- puppet/playground stage
- open space
- free
- walking distance

**(2) After reviewing the proposed Master Plan, what amenities would you like to see (a) added or (b) removed?**

**a) Proposed Additions/Top priorities by group:**

- #1 – improved Kidsburg/ADA compliant (13 points)
- #2 – more green space (8 points)
- #3 – soft running trail (6 points)
- #4 – demonstration learning garden for all ages (3 points)
- #5 – restrooms only – no building (2 points)
- #5 – multiuse space/year round (2 points)
- #7 – more parking – front/rear (1 point)
- #7 – more picnic shelters/large groups (1 point)

**Additional group suggestions** for improvements (but did not rank above):

- a splash pad area with designated areas for small children and activity stations available for year round use
- park office w/restrooms

**b) Proposed Removals, Relocations:**

**Top priorities by group:**

- #1 – Relocate second entrance further left (6 points)
- #1 – Remove water park – children will be wet for ride home in vehicle (6 points)
- #1 – Make play area larger – expand Kidsburg (6 points)
- #2 – Big building – only need restrooms (4 points)
- #2 – Eliminate excess tree plantings – leave open space (4 points)
- #3 – Water park sending wrong message – water conservation issues in JCC (3 points)
- #3 – Lighting conservation plan – lights off certain time (resident of Meadows) (3 points)
- #4 – Name boards for original Kidsburg – what happens to them/use them again (2 points)
- #5 – Tennis court – traffic pattern concern with News Road (1 point)

**(3) Other suggestions or concerns:**

Traffic issues and concerns-unsafe conditions; synchronizing all traffic lights on Monticello Avenue; left-turn lane to News Road; back ups.



# Mid County Park Master Plan

## Citizen Involvement

### Online Comments

[parks.rec@james-city.va.us](mailto:parks.rec@james-city.va.us)

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#### February 28, 2011

I am sure the kids would miss the park if you tear it down. I am a parent that gave money on the name plates around the park. I bought 2. If you tear it down would I be able to get the ones with my kids name on them.

#### February 24, 2011

We bring our grandchildren who visit us to Mid-County Park. They all love it. I understand you are considering a water spray section. My requests are: 1) Include a lot of climbing activities, including even a rock wall. Our four grandsons (3,5,8,9) love to climb. 2) Include activities that can be used in all seasons. 3) Surrounding the park with a wall with one exit would keep the children contained and allow them to play without their parents thinking they must have the children in their sights at all times.

#### February 20, 2011

In reading about the upgrade/changes for the Mid County Park, I just wanted to add what I have seen on past visits. The Kids-ville part of the Park has been a huge success and as plans move forward hopefully this theme will be maintained. The last few times I have there with my grandsons the child's play areas were very busy. It is a good gathering place, and a great way for the kids to get some much needed exercise. I believe a few more locations for parents to relax and/or picnic would also be put to good use.

#### February 19, 2011

My eight year old daughter would like to express her thoughts on the plan to repurpose the park:  
"I have been playing at Kidsburg since I was a baby. I don't want the wooden play buildings to go away, but the spray park sounds really fun. Is there a way to have both? The wood buildings could be fixed up, maybe by volunteers. I am a girl scout and we are always looking for community service. Then the spray park could be put where the ball fields are that older kids can't play on. That way we have both."

#### February 17, 2011

I would like to submit my input on the Mid County Park Master Plan. I would like to see Mid County Park have more "old school" equipment mixed in with modern "different stuff" as it is at the My place playground. My child who is disabled loves the My Place Park. What I enjoy also is not only is she having fun, but so many other kids who are not physically disabled are enjoying all the movement available of the accessible play equipment. Keeping the accessible swing at both parks would be great. However, have multiple swings of varying heights would be ideal, as all age groups like to swing, but due to leg length that restricts so many depending on what height the swing is set at. I would like to see a large slide made of plastic so that it doesn't get so hot like the current metal ones. They make very large slides that have multiple runs. I would like to see these runs wide enough to allow a reasonable sized adult to go with their small child – and other equipment that could allow an adult to easily participate with their child too. I would also like to see less mulch, which is very hard to walk on, roll a baby stroller or wheelchair over, it gets rutted and it attracts ticks. I would also like to see that visibility of the play areas are open so you can easily watch your kids & avoid any areas that strangers can't hide out in. Bathrooms with accessible stalls, drinking fountains, large benches and tables for families to sit and enjoy (not just the rented table area). I do not agree with the water spray park: for the following reasons: \*The dog park at Waller Mill Park shuts off the water fountain for the dogs for months due to freezing. I don't see that being any different here. Most kids are at school during the day; therefore it would only be used on warm days on warm weekends or during the summer. What would the hours of operation be? \*Most people do not carry a bathing suit with them to go to the local park. \*There would need to be ample changing areas/room in the bathrooms to accommodate people changing into bathing suits. Most people wanting to get wet in a park setting would go to Water Country USA. \*Adults and kids running around with bare wet feet would need appropriate side-walks vs. grass and mulch to walk on to get to these fountains. \*Breakage of fountain heads and replacement of damaged equipment & upkeep need to be maintained in the annual budget, this seems costly. \*Standing water harbors bacteria, allows mold to grow, and is a great place for mosquito's and other bugs to lay eggs. \*A possible water feature? I do like the water features at the library, however one of them is hidden, sometimes it's not even on, and the floor around it is often covered in mold. The larger rock fountain the kids like to climb on has a wimpy fountain spray, and I always fear for kids falling in and getting hurt on the rocks. My family really enjoys our parks here in James City County; I hope some of this input was helpful. We look forward to seeing what you all come up with.





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#### February 17, 2011

I have four children that regularly play at Kidsburg and I have discussed with them what they would ultimately like to see happen to the playground area. All of my kids are excited about the possibility to have a new playground, but they also worry what the new equipment will be like. All four stated that they liked the natural feel of Kidsburg. Meaning, that they would like to see incorporated into the new design other natural elements, not plastic equipment, not large concrete areas etc. The other concern is the length of time the area would be closed to residents. We live in a subdivision that does not have a park for the kids to play at, so alternative play areas should be brought to the public's attention.

#### February 15, 2011

The plans for the new park seems very nice, and I think the addition of the water feature is a good idea. Other communities my family has lived in (CA, TN, NC) over the years have had similar features, and they always were very popular—in warm months. It seems that finding an alternative use for this space in months when the water feature will not be operational might be beneficial. I also see that improved parking is a priority, which is great, but what about making the park more accessible to the neighborhoods nearby? JCC has a number of great parks, but none of them is easily reached by foot or bicycle, and many are located on busy roads. Kidsburg, in particular, sits on an island off one of the busiest intersections in the county. There are no crosswalks or pedestrian signals at the intersection of Monticello and News roads, and kids of all ages frequently can be seen dangerously dashing across this busy thoroughfare. I would like to see any improvements made at this or any other park focus not only on additional features, but also on the ability of our community to utilize them in a more environmentally friendly way. James City County is a great place to live-as long as you have a car.

#### February 15, 2011

Please, do not waste money redesigning Mid County Park with cosmetic or unnecessary changes like you did on the Recreation Center. Stick to the basics as to what needs to be done. Even in good economic times, we can't afford it.

#### February 14, 2011

I heard that you are planning on making some changes to kidsburg. I won't be able to attend the meeting but I did want to just let you know that I am hoping in the new plans you keep an area designated for small children that is gated off. I have two small children and one on the way. I am able to come and enjoy kidsburg now only because you have that area available and I can sit and watch them knowing they can't run off and out of that area because of the gate. It would be impossible for me to bring them there by myself if that area wasn't there. So I thank you for having that and hope that it remains in your future plans. I know that a lot of other mothers feel the same way. Sometimes we have a play group there just because of that space. So Thank you! And thank you for all you do for the community.

#### February 14, 2011

Why is there not a marked crosswalk (Traffic Yield) sign on ironbound? I live in the Meadows development and its extremely dangerous for kids and grown-ups alike, to safely cross this roadway to enjoy the Mid County Park. I have witness on three separate occasions where there was almost a pedestrian and vehicle collision. But overall, the Mid County Park is truly a great place for me and my family to enjoy daily!

#### February 13, 2011

We are writing to express our strong opposition to replacing the community-built Kidsburg playground with a spray park. In brief, our opposition is two-fold: First, Kidsburg is unique in its design and its history. We would strong favor repairing/upgrading Kidsburg as needed, but keeping the original intent, design, and structures to the fullest extend possible. Second, a spray park seems wasteful. While we suppose that such a park in this day in age is designed to conserve water, we also imagine that such a design is limited in effectiveness and therefore such a park would be wasteful of a non-renewable resource. Additionally, the park would be of very limited use, essentially functional only in the late spring and summer. Again, this seems a waste.



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**February 12, 2011**

As a resident of Meadows II, Kidsburg park is very important to me. Many neighborhood children use the park as well as people who drive in to use it. I feel the old equipment should be replaced or repaired as needed. I do not feel a play area with water is necessary, but rather a hazard considering the upkeep and danger for children.

**February 12, 2011**

I live across the street from Mid-County Park in the Meadows II. I no longer have small children who use Kidsburg but I am excited about the proposed renovation. My only concern is traffic. I walk the path every day and there are many times it is almost impossible to cross from my development into the park. I also see people trying to walk from Target to the park. Trying to cross Ironbound or Monticello is almost impossible. I have been reading in the paper where the county is proposing a light at Colony Square shopping center. Something most people realise will not be needed when Fresh Market moves. Have you thought about a light at the park entrance on Ironbound? Or some kind of pedestrian crossing. You want to encourage people to bike and or walk in the county but you don't provide adequate opportunity. Seems ridiculous that you have to drive to Mid-county Park because you can't cross the street.

**February 12, 2011**

In regards to mid-county park restoration: \* Love the idea of a sprinkler play/pool water park area (they have one of these in my home town in Missouri and the kids love it when we visit). \*Great alternative to water country for little ones and moms not wanting to brave the tourists during the summer months \*Better fencing around the perimeter. Right now Monticello can be accessed if the children go down the fence far enough, which deters us from currently using the park, lest someone escape my grasp. Non-wooden equipment!!! \*It is nice to have a toddler area that is fenced off and separate \*Shaded areas are necessary to get out of the sun on hot Virginia days \*Pavillions that could be reserved for parties would be nice, like New Quarter park \*The tall slides scare us to death (get rid of them). We don't even let our 6 year old go down the big one at the end of the park. \*Walking tracks around the park vicinity.

**February 11, 2011**

The park is definitely an asset to our neighborhood! We agree that the playground has probably reached the end of it's practical "life." The plan to replace it with an ADA facility is a good idea. We're not sure about the water spray area, though. I'm sure that children would like it, but think that they would want to run back and forth from that area to the playground- What type of ground covering will be in the playground? Will it be rubber mulch or regular mulch? On the positive side, the water spray area would provide relief from the heat! Please keep the walking path the same! We walk regularly on the path, and it provides a safe place to exercise away from cars. The level surface of the path is great, and means that we do not have to look down to make sure we don't slip on gravel, etc, which is present on our neighborhood streets. It would be really nice if VDOT would agree to put striping on Ironbound Road for a crosswalk so that everyone in The Meadows could more safely cross the road to get to the park. The idea of having the ball fields replaced with grassy areas is very good! We will be unable to attend the public meetings, so wanted to give you our comments.

**February 11, 2011**

Hello, I live in Powhatan Secondary and have been a resident of Williamsburg since 1988. Both of my children have used Kidsburg park and recently my husband and I have used the new walking path which is wonderful. I just have a few suggestions for the new park: since we have an obesity epidemic in our country I would love to see different work-out stations in the park, several water fountains, a dog exercise park and continue the walking path. Since I donated money to have my sons name put on one of the posts when Kidsburg was built I would like to have that post given back to me instead of it being destroyed.

**February 11, 2011**

We urge you to keep Kidsburg. Our grandkids love it when they come to visit. In fact, they say it's the best kids park that they've ever visited! If there's equipment that needs repairing, perhaps that could be done without re-doing the entire Kidsburg area. A water spray park could only be used in the summer; there's already a water spray area at Busch Gardens; Water Country is also here. Yes, they do require an admission fee, but is it advisable to replace Kidsburg which can be used year round with a water spray park?



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**February 11, 2011**

As a mom whose children have loved the Mid County Park and Kidsburg for more than 12 years, I would like to see the park continue its tradition of being a great destination for the next "generation" of little ones. I love the idea of a water feature park! My children have played on such parks during visits to other cities and found them to be delightful! What a great treat for our long, hot summers for kids and parents alike! We are fans of all of the Parks and feel that any effort that goes into them is beneficial for all of us in the greater Williamsburg area, for recreation, community building and making this the most desirable area in which to work, play and do business in the area!

**February 11, 2011**

My wife and I have two 1 year olds and another baby on the way. We were very disappointed to hear about kidsburg being taken down! We love kidsburg, but understand that the wooden equipment is aging. If it is taken down then I would hope... 1) a new kidsburg would be put up in the same location. We love the location and convenience to our house. 2) or build a new equivalent sized children's play area in another location in Williamsburg (freedom park for example). The benefit to this would be that it could be built and functional before kidsburg was removed. We really don't want to lose the best kids play ground in the area without a new alternative, especially with warm weather approaching. 3) In place of the baseball/softball fields at midcounty park (in addition to, not excluding a new kids area) maybe a satellite building of the james city county rec center could be put in? weight room and games (ie ping pong, etc for kids/teens). Really, I just hope there will still be a nice children's park for my little ones!

**February 10, 2011**

I definitely like the old wood. My kids haven't grown tired of it after many many years. I hope you will keep the park with the same feel as it currently has. A pre-fab metal playground would be just like everyone else's. Let's do another nice wooden playground as before.

**February 10, 2011**

Please do not turn this park into a water themed park. The park is lovely as it is. IF it must be torn down, build a similar structure that families can enjoy most of the year. I don't see how there is money in the county budget anyway to consider such an endeavor as a water park. Keep the park the way it is. It's great for family fun, picnics and for little ones to play. There are already neighborhood pools and Water Country down the road. Keep the expenses to the tax payers minimal and work with what's there.

**February 10, 2011**

More trees please!!!! Don't get rid of the volleyball... thanks! Also maybe a dog park section...Waller Mill is too far away.

**February 10, 2011**

Please consider adding four Pickleball Courts in your plans. Pickleball is a fast-growing sport for all ages -- play is spreading in middle and high school gym classes, since all can play regardless of skill and dexterity. Also, most senior citizen communities across the country play pickleball on courts established in their master plans. We currently play on "taped" boundary lines at Mid-County Park -- much more often than any tennis players use the courts. Plans for various court configurations may be found on the U.S.A. Pickleball Association website, [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org). Thank you for allowing comments.



## Mid County Park Master Plan Hotline Comments—Summarized

### **February 17, 2011**

Two children. MCP is so successful and draws in so many young children to play is because it's out of the ordinary and very interesting, much more so than all the other playgrounds in town. Kids prefer parents to drive them there to play on those wonderful, fantastical structures with nooks and crannies, images of boat and castles and there's a lot of imagination in park that you don't often see at other playgrounds. I think the zip wires are fantastic...the playground structures are spread out, allows a lot of kids to play at once and parents can still see them. Enclosed structures for younger children has been very helpful to me. Vision of the park in its original form is so fantastical that it does draw people, folks drive from other counties to come here. I hope we can preserve its uniqueness and not have it become just another little playground.

### **February 17, 2011**

My grandchildren come to visit from out of town and love the park as it is. We suggest the antiquated boards be replaced with weatherproof boarding and the park be kept just as it is.

### **February 15, 2011**

What will happen to the pickets, enjoyed the park over the years and supportive of whatever we feel needs to happen with the playground now. My family also helped construct Kidsburg. Don't visit the park anymore but my 19 year old son plays basketball there when home from school.

### **February 9, 2011**

We were involved with the Kidsburg original construction and made a picket fence donation (daughters ages 23, 19 and 4). One daughter at JMU and there's a great playground near campus which includes a 'jaw dropping beautiful playground.' The girls that started it paid over \$100,000. It features a water area (not sprinklers) with touch area rocks with water and animal sounds that correspond with foot print; metal dome-like rainbow area and you step on circles that make sounds on protective pads, driving area for bikes with fire area with hydrants, little benches, bridges, hose ; handicapped swings – toddler swings in different area; Child appropriate. Benches for adults. Thanks for doing this – Mid County Park is not as healthy as it used to be.

### **February 07, 2011**

Initial thought it was a terrible idea to take down Kidsburg as she helped build it. Most interested in finding out what was going to happen to the pickets. Also, thought an area for teens only would be a good idea.

### **February 5, 2011**

I appreciate how easy you have made it to provide comments and feedback. If feasible or possible, please construct a fenced in dog area at the park to allow residents to bring their pets and have them run round around unleash.



# Mid County Park Master Plan

## Listening Board Comments Summarized

February 16, 2011—March 1, 2011  
James City/Williamsburg Community Center

The **Listening Board** was an opportunity to participate in the Master Plan process without attending a meeting. Comments from the Board are listed below and will be compiled and become part of the citizen input process. Participants were asked to respond to three questions:

Client # Date	What do you currently like about Mid County Park such as the activities/ amenities that you enjoy there?	After reviewing the proposed Master Plan, what amenities would you like to see... (a) added or (b) removed?	Other suggestions or concerns?
1) February 18	the track	A: - B: the track	My wife and I walk/run the track and have taught our children to ride our bikes on it. Fitness opportunities are needed in the County. Don't get rid of the track.
2) February 22	We use the walking trail and hope it will remain.	A: - B: Water park for kids can only be used 2-3 months per year—it is too cold here for longer usage.	-
3) February 22	Walking trail	A: - B: Water Park	-
4) February 22	Walking trail	A: keep walking trail B: water park	-
5) February 26	Kidsburg, walking loop	A: Obstacle course along the walking loop; pull up bar, tires, fun workout additions B: -	-
6) February 26	Playground	A: - B: -	A cross walk from Old Field Road to the park.
7) February 26	Both my boys are <u>huge</u> fans of the "pirate" ship section of the playground!! I enjoy the fact that there is an enclosed area for younger children.	A:- B:-	-
8) February 26	The playground is large and good for many ages.	A: Accessible structures like at the rec center B: Sprinklers	Like wooden structure
9) February 26	Swings; separate area for small children; the Ziplines – love these! And need many of these.	A: "Misters" in lieu of spray ground; better rock climbing wall B: Spray ground – too much liability and only open ¼ of the year – not worth the cost.	Glad it is being redone! Thanks!





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10) February 26	We like the creative play – castle, ship, stage, etc.	A: Skateboard and skate area B: Splash pad – not cost effective	Have a rec employee on staff at the facility and do a materials checkout – balls, Frisbees, etc.
11) February 26	-	A:- B:-	The shelter behind the trees will become a gang area – let it open to view. Leave 1 or 2 lights to prevent crime.
12) February 26	SWINGS ARE A MUST!	A:- B:-	-
13) February 26	-	A:- B:-	Rangers help host b-day parties – themed.
14) February 26	-	A:- A central park office with improved restrooms; more picnic shelters to hold large groups B: Relocation of sand volleyball courts to active area of park	-
15) February 26	Many different things to do at the park – good for various ages.	A:- B:-	More monitoring of dogs in the park, teens using profanity, cleaner bathroom facilities.
16) March 1	My grandchildren love to come here because it is different. They've outgrown the small kids area but love the boat, the big slide by the tree and the various tunnels and swinging things.	A: Really need restrooms, water fountains. Splash pad sounds fine but don't "dumb down" and take all the excitement away for the active kids. Tennis courts need resurfacing which I use. B: -	

### County's Proposed Additions:

- additional parking in front and rear of park
- a centrally located park office with improved restrooms
- multi use space for year round use
- increased picnic shelters to accommodate large groups
- a new "Kidsburg" playground made from improved materials and ADA accessible
- expanded open and green space for pick up activities and shelter overflow
- a Splash pad area with designated areas for small children and activity stations available for year round use

### County's Proposed Removals, Relocations:

- relocation of Sand Volleyball courts to active area of park
- removal of two baseball fields and lighting of Jamestown and Warhill High School fields
- tennis courts, basketball courts and multi use path remain in current locations